

# **A Letter to Parents on Computers**



## **What We Do and Why**

In our program we have a special activity area where the children “play” with computers. While this may sound like a strange way of describing what children do with computers, this is in fact what goes on. The children experiment, using programs that help them develop in many exciting ways. Here are some of the things that children learn when they use computers:

- Math skills and concepts such as counting and numerical relationships
- Beginning reading concepts
- How to express creativity
- How to solve problems

We encourage children to work at the computer in pairs. This helps them learn from each other and develops their social skills at the same time. While the children are working at the computer, we ask them questions such as these to help them think about what they’re doing:

- “What made you decide to choose this program to work on?”
- “What do you suppose will happen if you press the escape key?”
- “How can you make the program move to something you’ve never played with before?”
- “What printouts did you decide to make today?”

By working with children in these ways, we not only encourage their growth and development but also help prepare them for a future in which they will need to know how to work with computers.

## **What You Can Do At Home**

You may or may not have a computer in your home. It is certainly not necessary that you do have one in order for your child to benefit from the computer area. If you do have a home computer and would like to know some things that you can do with your child at home, please contact us. We will be glad to provide you with assistance, including how to judge which programs are appropriate for use with young children. We have some good information on this topic that we’d like to share with you.

You may be interested in visiting our program to observe how children use computers. If you’d like to volunteer to work with children in the computer area, we’d be delighted to have your help. Also, our program offers introductory instruction on using the computer for parents and children together. This can be an exciting opportunity for you to learn about computers side-by-side with your child.